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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 085774
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S E C R E T STATE 085774

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, UNSC, SOV, LE, IS, XF

SUBJECT: SOVIETS IN UNIFIL

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REF: JERUSALEM 959 (NOTAL)

1. WE PRESUME UN SOURCE OF INFORMATION IN REFTEL RE BRINGING IN SOVIET UNMO'S FROM DAMASCUS FOR SERVICE WITH UNIFIL MUST BE PROTECTED.

2. OUR GENERAL POSITION MUST BE THAT THE SOVIETS SHOULD

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NOT RPT NOT PARTICIPATE IN UNIFIL, EVEN ON THE LIMITED
BASIS SIILASVUO AND WALDHEIM MAY BE THINKING OF. THE
ISRAELIS WOULD BE EXTREMELY ANGRY AND THE RESULT MIGHT
BE TO JEOPARDIZE ISRAELI COOPERATION WITH UNIFIL, BOTH
NOW -- AND THE PERIOD PRIOR TO FULL WITHDRAWAL -- AND
LATER.

3. SOMETIME AGO, WHEN THE IDEA AROSE OF PLACING SOVIET
OFFICERS IN THE UNTSO OBSERVATION POSTS IN SOUTH LEBANON,
WE DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM THIS WOULD POSE WITH THE LEBANESE
AND THEY MADE CLEAR TO THE UN THEIR OPPOSITION TO
THE IDEA.

4. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT OUR SOURCE MUST BE PROTECTED,
USUN SHOULD FIND A WAY -- PERHAPS BY DISCUSSING THE
GENERAL SUBJECT OF EAST EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN UNIFIL --
TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE UN THE DIFFICULTIES A SOVIET ROLE
WOULD POSE. SAY THAT WE BELIEVE BOTH ISRAEL AND LEBANON
WOULD OPPOSE EVEN TOKEN SOVIET PARTICIPATION. IF UN
REPS MENTION THE POSSIBILITY OF USING SOVIET OFFICERS
FOR LIAISON WITH THE PLO, YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT
THE SOVIETS STRONGLY SUPPORT THE PLO AND ITS MILITARY
CAMPAIGNS, HAVE PROVIDED THEM VARIOUS FORMS OF ASSISTANCE,
AND COULD HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO REPRESENT THE UN SATIS-
FACTORILY UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. YOU MIGHT ADD, DRAWING
ON STATE 83817,THAT A MUCH PREFERABLE WAY OF
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DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM WOULD BE TO ENCOURAGE EAST
EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN THE FORCE ITSELF.

5. FOR BEIRUT: WE WOULD PREFER USUN TO TAKE THE LEAD
ON THIS MATTER BUT, AT AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY, YOU SHOULD
ACQUAINT BOUTROS WITH THE PROBLEM AND ASK HIM TO OPPOSE
ANY UN PROPOSAL TO USE SOVIET OFFICERS IN UNIFIL OR SOUTH
LEBANON, AS HE DID PREVIOUSLY.

6. FOR ALL: GENERAL KHOURY'S ABSENCE OF NEGATIVE COMMENT
TO SIILASVUO'S PROBING SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS AUTHORITA-
TIVE. IN THESE MATTERS, BOUTROS SHOULD BE THE ONLY ONE
TO TALK TO.

7. TEL AVIV'S 4451 AND BEIRUT'S 1842 REINFORCE OUR VIEW.

CHRISTOPHER

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